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Special Survey

Applying High-Tech To Local Operations

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AMERICAN CITY & COUNTY®

July 1988 Vol. 103, No. 7

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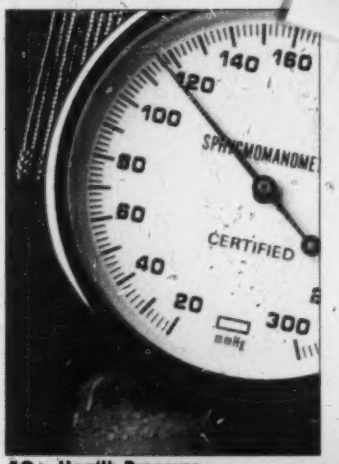
Cover photography by Jon Hayano, Atlanta



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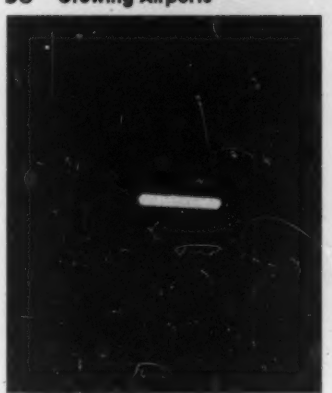

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The Future Is Now

The year is 2031. High above the Earth, a massive space station circles the land and sea masses below, its metallic glow giving the appearance of a tiny star. Inside the station's pods, scientists work diligently in the simulated gravity; colonists ready themselves for journeys to the Moon and beyond. Outside, space-suited technicians move effortlessly as they prepare the next shuttle for reentry into the atmosphere below. A deep-space vessel waits at an outer dock.

"The U.S. space program is light years ahead of the Soviets and Chinese," shuttle commander James Kark says as he leads a visiting Earth mayor, Leonard McKay, through spotless corridors on their way to the colonist quarters. "Since Congress escalated spending on the program in 1989, we've spent roughly $400 billion to build this station, improve the shuttle and explore space. This is a first-rate, top-of-the-line operation up here."

"Yes, we've created an impressive presence in space," McKay responds. "I only wish we could be doing as much on Earth."

The mayor stops at the Station Hospital sign, peering in the hatchway to catch a glimpse of U.S. space medicine. Kark offers some explanation.

"Our biggest problem up here is the weightlessness and its effect on the human body," he says. "But we're equipped to handle anything from typhoid to heart transplants. Our doctors and hospital staff are the best, and the equipment is the most up-to-date."

McKay reflects on his last visit to the public hospital in his hometown. The equipment was often 15 years old, medicine was in short supply in some cases, understaffing was prevalent, and care for the poor and homeless almost nonexistent. "We just don't have the budget for this kind of facility at my city's hospital," he says to Kark.

"Infant mortality rates keep increasing on Earth," McKay continues. "Our youth-immunization programs are understaffed and often without vaccines to give out. I heard about a recent polio outbreak on the East Coast. And many people don't live in rural areas because there is no emergency medical, fire or police service."

"Everything we do here will help you people back on the planet," the commander answers. "This technology all has applications down there eventually."

As they walk, McKay notices the computer terminals and screens at periodic intervals along the corridor. Kark explains they provide whatever information on-board personnel need. "Virtually the entire Library of Congress, Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Museum and many other reference sources are included in the database," he says. "Our computer library is unmatched anywhere."

On Earth, McKay's own city library still has reference books stacked to the ceiling, row after row. Library users must pay an entrance fee and a fee for every book they use. Computers are still too expensive. Public schools also use textbooks instead of computers. Only at the local private schools, where wealth determines enrollment, are there sophisticated, modern teaching aids. McKay's constituents long ago reached the limits for local taxes. The national government was taking so much out of their income to pay for the space program and budget deficits of $2 trillion a year, little was left for local coffers.

"Here's a typical living cube for members of the crew," Kark says as they stop again. Inside, McKay sees three rooms, which, although somewhat cramped, offer a fully equipped kitchenette, multiple video screens and the omnipresent resource computer.

"Back home, I have people still living under old, closed down bridges," McKay says, by this time almost muttering to himself. "Since Washington ended assistance for public housing, we've been forced to use whatever rundown, abandoned buildings are available to shelter these people."

"I'm sure you can appreciate the importance of what we're doing up here," Kark replies.

Finally reaching their destination, the two enter the colonists' cafeteria, where buttons on tables are used to order from a menu including station-grown fresh fruit, vegetables and several varieties of poultry. "Today's not a good day for lunch variety," Kark apologizes. "Usually there's some Earth beef but we're using our storage capacity for the Jupiter mission."

As McKay looks up to remind his beaming host such a feast would be welcomed by millions on Earth, his eyes notice a sign above the entryway and his reply fades in his throat. "The Future Is Now," he reads, and he decides, "Why bother?" □

— Ken Anderberg

Consulting Engineers Select Design Winners

Breakaway Trails, a self-sufficient community serving 3,200 residents while preserving the environment of north-central Volusia County, Fla., earned Briley, Wild and Associates of Ormond Beach, Fla., the Grand Conceptor Award from the American Consulting Engineers Council (ACEC).

The $4.5-million Florida community features its own facilities for water supply, sewage treatment and stormwater management. Nestled in a sensitive environmental area adjacent to the flood plains of the Little Tomoka, the community was designed to take advantage of natural vistas, while roads and streets minimize traffic flow.

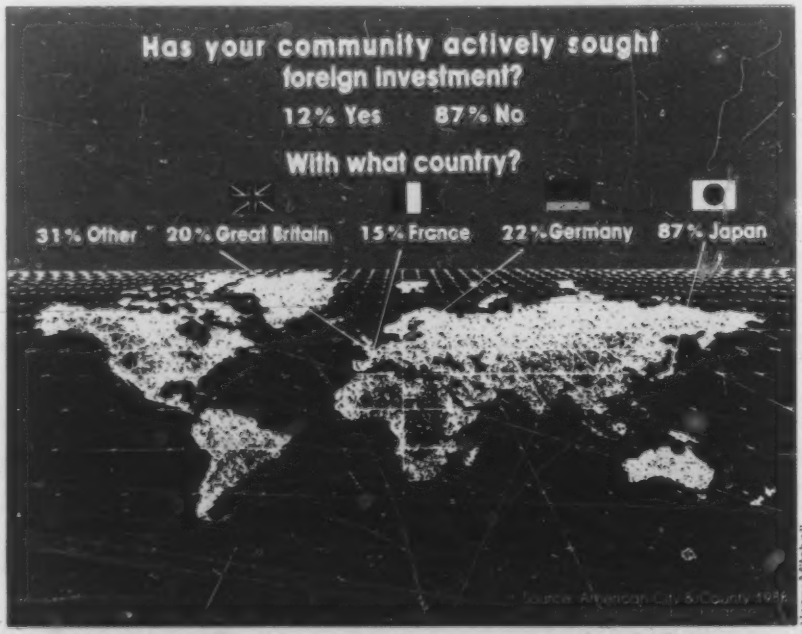
Nineteen other winners were named in the ACEC's 21st annual Engineering Excellence competition, including five Grand Awards. McNamee, Porter and Seeley of Ann Arbor, Mich., won for a study to help preserve the Chesapeake Bay. Houston's George Brown Convention Center, inspired by technology used in offshore oil platforms, earned an award for Bernard Johnson Inc., Houston.

A mobile decontamination unit used in Butte, Mont., and Kent, Wash., to change hazardous PCBs and dioxins into environmentally safe substances earned an award for Galson and Galson, East Syracuse, N.Y. Another Grand Award went to SEA Consultants, Cambridge, Mass., which designed a $24-million wastewater-treatment plant in Westborough, Mass., to treat 7.7 million gallons of wastewater a day. A jet array system in Aberdeen, Wash., which uses water jets to break up sediment in Port of Grays Harbor, earned an award for Howard, Needles, Tammen and Bergendoff, Bellevue, Wash.

The 14 Honor Award winners include: Dames and Moore, Los Angeles, for a seismic analysis of Pleasant Valley Dam in Bishop, Calif.; Wright-Pierce, Topsham, Maine, for a septage-treatment process; Camp Dresser & McKee, Edison, N.J., for a water-supply study for Camden, N.J.; and Charles M. Salter Associates, San Francisco, for the design of Lucasfilm's technical building in Nicasio, Calif.

Other Honor Award winners are: Haley and Aldrich, Cambridge, Mass., for the Rowes Wharf development in Boston; Ayres, Lewis, Norris and May, Ann Arbor, Mich., for an energy-management program for the World Bank headquarters in Washington; Post, Buckley, Schuh and Jernigan, Orlando, Fla., for a man-made wetlands project in Orlando; O'Brien and Gere, Syracuse, N.Y., for a composting facility in Schenectady, N.Y.; Donohue, Sheboygan, Wis., for designing the third phase of the Adams Center hazardous-waste landfill; Short-Elliot-Hendrickson, St. Paul, Minn., for the Main Street/Rum River Crossing in Anoka, Minn.; Soros Associates, New York, for a new coal-transportation system in Chile; Sverdrup Corp., St. Louis, for the Danzinger Lift Bridge in New Orleans; Robert Silman and Associates, New York, for the Spectral Light Dome at the Portland, Ore., Center for the Performing Arts; and Ayres Associates, Eau Claire, Wis., for a floating bulkhead in Chippewa Falls, Wis.

SURVEY SPOTLIGHT



Henry Mitchell

Diesel-Fuel Tax Increases Road Funds

Congressional action to tighten collection of federal diesel-fuel taxes will add more than $200 million per year to the Highway Trust Fund, according to the American Road and Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA).

The provision changes the point of collection for diesel-fuel excise taxes from retailers to wholesalers. The action will reduce Internal Revenue Service Audits on diesel-fuel firms from 60,000 to an estimated 8,000.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) estimates up to 40 percent of the nation's diesel-fuel retailers were not filing returns and paying taxes on fuel sales. FHWA suggested many retailers may not have been aware of the obligation. "This is a significant development in federal highway funding," says Daniel Spigai, ARTBA chairman.

However, he adds Congress should "take the next step in recovering lost highway-user fees by ending the federal subsidy for gasohol that costs the Highway Trust Fund approximately $500 million each year."

Governments Put Clamp on Per Diem

Government agencies are imposing strict per-diem travel allowances on their employees as costs of business travel continue to rise. The standard per diem for business travel for federal government employees is $25 per day for lodging, and another $25 for meals, taxis, laundry, and similar services. State, county and city governments also are imposing similar per-diem ceilings on their employees.

Many cities subscribe to the Runzeimer Research Service, which classifies cities into four categories and recom-

Applying High-Tech To Local Operations

Even the smallest local governments have their minds on microchips and computers, as this exclusive *American City & County* survey shows.

By Tim Darnell, Associate Editor

Known as Mississippi's "Queen City," Meridian has a population of 46,700 and 590 municipal employees. Chief Administrative Officer Robert Klimetz always is looking for ways to improve efficiency and productivity. In several instances, those improvements have included using computers.

Klimetz estimates using microcomputers for mapping, engineering and word-processing applications, and minicomputers for personnel, payroll, water, wastewater, utility-billing, maintenance and public-safety services, has led to almost a 20-percent increase in productivity. According to an exclusive *American City & County* survey, Meridian is not alone in enjoying the benefits of computerization.

More than 37 percent of cities and counties surveyed indicate municipal productivity has been increased by more than 25 percent through computers. Though the survey indicates 1989 municipal budgets for purchasing computers will remain about the same as 1988 for most localities (53.6 percent), Klimetz says, "Most towns think they cannot afford computerization, but it really saves in the long run."

The survey includes a representative sampling of the nation's cities and counties. A total of 271 cities and counties responded, and more than 80 percent had populations less than 50,000.

Jon Hyano

Fifteen cities with populations between 100,000 and 499,999 responded, while two cities were surveyed with more than 500,000. Among counties, six with populations between 100,000 and 499,999 repsonded, while one was surveyed with more than 500,000.

Geographically, the respondents vary, with the largest percentage coming from the Midwest, 28.3 percent. Municipalities employing less than 50 people made up the largest survey segment (26.1 percent).

Smaller cities recorded the highest ratio of productivity increases. Seventy-one percent of cities surveyed with less than 100,000 people say efficiency has increased more than 25 percent through automation. Among counties with less than 100,000, 50 percent registered productivity increases of more than 25 percent.

One benefit of a computerized record-keeping system is continuity. "With a computer, you are never at the mercy of one individual," Klimetz says. "When the clerk retires after 10 years of service, all the information is there and stored in the computer."

As with any new system, however, users may be reluctant to learn and understand its abilities. "Too many times, there is mistrust and fear of the computer," Klimetz adds. "But once people get over the fear of electrocution, they begin to realize the computer is only a tool. We use very simple, straightforward machines."

Meridian uses Hewlett-Packard word and data processors, microfilm readers/printers, along with more standard office fare, such as copiers, electric typewriters and word processors. Nationally, IBM equipment is the product of choice, with 52 percent listing it as their primary brand of hardware. Unisys comes next with 11 percent, while NCR is used by 7 percent of those surveyed.

Merle Strouse, city administrator of Rolla, Mo., uses IBM 38 mainframes, which recently were purchased to re-

For what purposes, or in which departments, do you currently use computer equipment and software?	Total responses	Micro(%)	Mini(%)	Mainframe(%)
Building Maintenance/Security	49	49	27	24
Financial Planning/Budgeting	288	34	33	33
Fleet Management	96	47	29	24
Mapping/Engineering	86	60	27	13
Parks & Recreation	95	51	33	17
Personnel & Payroll	253	26	32	42
Police/Fire Services	182	40	35	25
Public Transit	21	52	38	10
Scheduling	35	57	29	14
Solid-Waste Collection/Disposal	54	46	22	31
Street Maintenance	76	50	24	26
Tax Records	140	21	31	49
Traffic Engineering/Control	70	56	23	21
Utility Billing/Maintenance	202	24	37	39
Water/Wastewater Operations	115	50	27	23
Word Processing	241	56	30	19
Other	39	31	44	25

place the 36 series. Every terminal in City Hall is integrated with computers in other departments, including the Police, Fire and Recreation departments. Seventy-five percent of the city's personal computers (PCs) are networked with other minicomputers, microcomputers and mainframes.

"With the complexity of government, we have been able to maintain our staff," Strouse says. Had computerization not entered the picture as a viable alternative, Strouse estimates he would have had to increase his staff by two to three people to maintain a comparable level of productivity.

"We have been using computers for the last eight years, but we have had a real amount of growth within the last five years," says Art Rohr, systems analyst for Purango, Colo.

The National Association of Towns and Townships reports smaller cities and counties are encouraged and, in some cases, mildly coerced, to find greater uses for computerization. The state auditor for Ohio is proposing legislation requiring computerized township bookkeeping and establishing an information network for local governments.

Indiana recently became the seventh state in the nation to have an automated fingerprint indentification system on-line and available to local governments. Before the system was installed, a suspect's name was needed to match a crime-scene print with prints in police files. Now, a single print can be matched and identified in 10 to 15 minutes. The system has a database of nearly 160,000 10-print cards, or 1.6 million individual prints.

The State Police Department plans to increase that database to 800,000 10-print cards, or 8 million individual prints. "This system will enable us to get faster, more accurate results in identifying fingerprints taken from a crime scene against known criminals whose prints are on file," says Superintendent Larry Furnas. The system cost $1.9 million.

Other groups specializing in computer applications for municipalities report an increase in technological interest. The first projects for Public Technology Inc. (PTI), Washington, were finding matches between National Aeronautics and Space Administration hardware and urban applications. Today, PTI works with the National League of Cities and the International City Management Association, helping municipal managers determine and apply appropriate technology to their own unique situations.

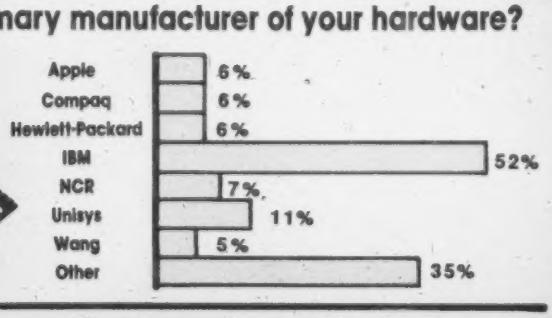
Integrated communication systems among municipal departments are gaining in popularity among larger cities and counties as well. Orange County, Calif., ranking seventh in population among U.S. counties, used facsimile (fax) systems for several years in many of its 27 libraries, courts, sheriff's offices, health-care and other facilities. But because each department had a different brand fax machine, integration was impossible.

According to Larry Wicks, telephone services specialist for the county, a network of 33 ImageMate fax machines from Murata Business Systems, Los Angeles, was purchased. The county's existing phone lines accommodate the new system, eliminating the need for dedicated phone lines.

Wicks says some of the most significant applications have come from the sheriff's and marshal's offices. Personnel from both departments can transmit classified prisoner information, such as release or sentencing papers, to other facilities, including courtrooms and jails. Previously, such information had to be hand-carried from one site to another by a marshal or deputy sheriff.

Public safety is one area being affected by new trends in automation. Forty percent of survey respondents say microcomputers are being used in police and fire services, while minicomputers are being used by 35 percent. The survey also shows 25 percent use mainframe hardware. While more respon-

Who is the primary manufacturer of your hardware?



dents are planning future software purchases for financial planning and budgeting purposes (11 percent), police and fire services fall closely behind at 9 percent.

One public-safety application has been developed by two University of San Francisco business professors. Their computerized patrol-scheduling system could save the city $11 million annually in police salaries. According to Phillip Taylor and Stephen Huxley, the system also reduces response time to emergencies.

Mainframe applications for police and fire services are more common than microcomputers and minicomputers among counties with less than 100,000 people, with 60 percent using mainframes compared to 20 percent for both microcomputers and minicomputers. Forty-four percent of those counties surveyed with more than 100,000 people also prefer mainframes, opposed to 33 percent for minicomputers and 22 percent for microcomputers.

Among cities with populations under 100,000, microcomputers are more common for police and fire services (42 percent) than mainframes and minicomputers. Only 22 percent use mainframe applications for these departments, and 36 percent use minicomputers. Thirteen percent of those smaller cities are planning additional software purchases for such public-safety purposes. Preferences among microcomputers, minicomputers and mainframe applications are divided evenly among cities with more than 100,000, with each registering a 33.3-percent rating.

"Once people get over the fear of electrocution, they realize the computer is only a tool."

Reduction of cumbersome papers and files often is a key factor influencing a decision to computerize. "It's amazing what people who have no previous background in computers have been able to do with them," says John Witherspoon, Guilford County, N.C., manager. "They just burst forth with innovative ideas we never expected."

One such user was Richard Nickoloff, training and technology coordinator for the San Fernando Valley office of the California Highway Patrol, who created a software program to develop computerized, cross-referenced accident and evidence logs. The program was based on a series of computer-produced booklets that fit inside ticket books of the 84 officers staffing the branch. The booklets detail and cross-reference intersections, patrol beats, hospitals, milepost markers, jails, radio frequencies, courts and other information for the office's five sectors.

The booklets were donated to the office by Useful Software, Calabasas, Calif. Nickoloff runs the program on a system given to the office by the state, an IBM-compatible PC, spreadsheet, database and word-processing software. The system and software grant is an experiment to determine how the state patrol might use PCs, and what other applications are important.

Besides financial planning and budgeting, *American City & County* discovered a wide variety of other areas where software purchases are being planned. Projected uses include mapping and engineering (18 percent), word processing (14 percent), street maintenance (13 percent), personnel and payroll (13 percent), and utility billing and maintenance (10 percent). Thirty-eight percent of those respondents had other, miscellaneous software purchases planned.

Utilities are finding more uses for computerization, from automated records and billing systems to hand-held meter-reading devices. Thirty-nine percent of cities and counties surveyed feature mainframe utility applications, while 37 percent employ minicomputers and 24 percent use microcomputers.

Miami Beach utility personnel now use hand-held computers to read the city's water meters. "This is the most important step the Public Services Department has taken in a long time," says Director Ron Rumbaugh. "The new system saves time, money and paperwork."

Rumbaugh says one of the most important results of the new system is the ability to identify problems on a daily basis and deal with them faster than before. The meter reader makes notations directly into the machine when there is over or under water usage or when there is water use at an address listed as an inactive account. Readers also are able to make note of a variety of property-

Minnesota City Adds Focus To Selection of Bond Issues

City managers today face a double-edged sword in setting priorities for municipal bond-issue bids. As more people relocate from rural to urban areas, the growing need for new public facilities clashes with taxpayers' growing reluctance to approve bond issues.

The problem is compounded when more than one facility is needed. Deciding which facilities merit taxpayer consideration can lead to complicated internal battles for city managers who try to balance hidden agendas, personality conflicts and disagreements over priority needs.

With this challenge in mind, city managers in Robbinsdale, Minn., a northwestern suburb of Minneapolis with a population of 14,420, obtained a computer-software package that made the bond-issue process run faster and more efficiently.

"We were considering eight different facilities," says Ryan Schroeder, assistant city manager, "everything from a police station to a new community center. While we could illustrate a need for all of the facilities, we knew that taxpayers couldn't carry the load for all the improvements at once. We had to establish a building priority and demonstrate our reasoning behind the choice."

Schroeder and the rest of the city manager's staff used the standard process produced inconclusive results. "We were floundering for a way to evaluate our options," he says. "Unfortunately, we had too many choices to consider and too great a need for the new facilities to have the process bogged down."

Using a software program called OptionFinder from Option Technologies, Mendota Heights, Minn., the city was able to prioritize the eight facilities, rank each facility's likelihood of being passed, and explore the possibility of sharing the cost and use of certain facilities with nearby cities.

The portable system includes electronic keypads for each group member, and enables them to provide candid and anonymous input. Using a combination of paired comparisons and a series of rating scales, individual responses are merged instantly with input from others in the group to create a collective response viewed almost instantly on a master grid.

"We were able to include more key people in the decision-making process," Schroeder says. "Because they were involved and felt their views were clearly incorporated, those key people support our recommendation." □

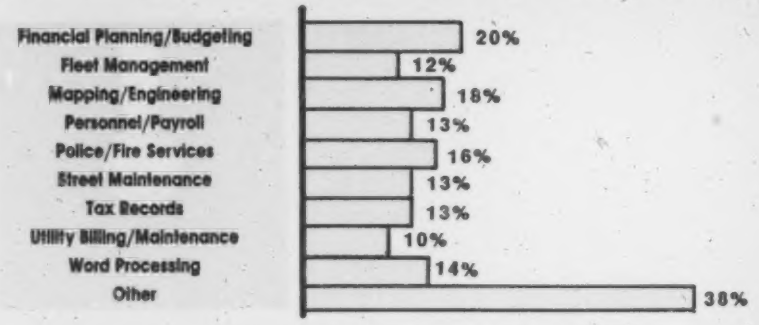
related problems, such as overgrown shrubbery or other conditions that prevent reading.

During elections, signature-verification and record-keeping systems may help local elections proceed smoother and faster. Pinellas County, Fla., has more than 488,000 registered voters. A new Wang word-processing system, including scanners and image-tracking devices, has been installed and upgraded to handle all automation needs. As a result, the county's Elections Department reduced its budget by 5.6 percent, while budgets for all other county jurisdictions went up 17 percent.

Local governments also are expanding current systems in addition to installing new ones. Officials in Ramsey County/St. Paul, Minn., are expanding an electronic welfare-benefits distribution program that has been in operation since last year.

The project was the nation's first-ever test of a comprehensive program to distribute welfare cash benefits using electronic-delivery systems rather than by check, marking the first time recipients accessed their benefits through an automated teller machine. Participation in the pilot program was limited to about 1,000 of the 9,000 recipients. Expansion of the program begins this month with the addition of 1,800 clients each month until all recipients are covered.

For what jobs are you planning software purchases?



One key issue facing municipal managers is training properly the personnel who will be using the computer. Thirty-six percent of respondents indicate the problem as a key issue in the information-technology and office-automation arenas. Integration networking comes in second, with 32.2 percent.

"Training is a slow process and key problem," says Charles Kagan, auditor for Melrose, Mass. "When I started working here, there were three PCs that had never been turned on because nobody knew how to use them. Once we started working with people and training, it has been snowballing ever since."

Though there may be problems in implementing and training personnel to use a computerized office system, this survey shows more local governments are experiencing the productivity increases that come from such systems. Computers were made to serve, and municipal managers are discovering they can help them serve the public. As Klimetz says, "By doing our own programming, we've let the computer back-up people's ideas, rather than the other way around." □

Additional research was provided by Charles Needle, editorial assistant for **American City & County.**

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Climbing is dangerous. Experienced climbers fall and die every day. That's why OSHA requires all climbs over 20' to be protected with fall prevention equipment. To meet this requirement, cages have been routinely specified for years. Yet cages are deadly for the climber who falls. Cages provide only an illusion of safety. In reality they allow a climber to fall 30' or more.

You need positive fall prevention to protect climbers. **Saf-T-Climb** systems meet *all* OSHA regulations for fall prevention. They can be quickly and easily installed on *ANY CLIMB—without cages, without platforms*; any length; straight or curved; above or below ground. All your climbers will be positively protected with **Saf-T-Climb**. Climbers will not slip more than 6". They get instant fall prevention and you get instant peace of mind.

Which would you rather do—slip 6" or fall 30'? Don't take unnecessary risks. Before you specify another cage, review all the facts. Investigate the performance history and claims made by cage manufacturers—then make arrangements to view our film on safe climbing. Call Audrey at (800) 421-3841 (in California (213) 926-0545).

Then, *you* decide.

NORTH *NORTH CONSUMER PRODUCTS, 16624 Edwards Rd., Cerritos, CA 90702-1480*

Circle No. 38 On Reader Service Card

MUNICIPAL COST INDEXES

A 1.5-percent increase by the **Consumer Price Index** was the largest gain by any index in July. While the index rose to 117.1, the **Producer Price Index** rose an even 1 percent, to 105.8. The **Municipal Cost Index** continued to rise, to 114.0, while the **Construction Cost Index** showed the least gain, 0.3 percent to 117.2.

Lumber rose to 133.7, while paper rose 1.1 percent. Sanitary papers also rose 1 percent; soaps and detergents made a 0.1-percent increase, similar to last month.

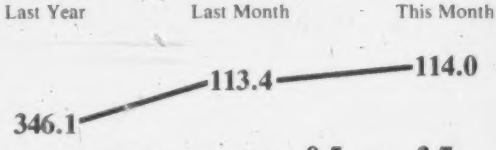
—Compiled by Tim Darnell

THIS MONTH'S MARKETBASKET

	Current Index	Percent Change From: Last Month	Last Year
Air Conditioners	112.7	0.4	3.6
Apparel	109.8	0.2	1.5
Asphalt Roofing	92.6	−1.1	1.3
Chemicals, Industrial	103.7	1.3	10.2
Coal	95.2	−1.1	−2.1
Concrete Products	109.9	0.1	0.5
Construction Machinery	110.9	0	2.2
Diesel Fuel	53.5	6.4	3.3
Electric Components	115.8	−0.2	1.1
Electric Lamps	122.4	0.1	0.8
Electric Power	107.7	−0.1	−0.3
Engines, I.C.	110.8	−0.2	1.4
Fans, Blowers	112.2	0	1.3
Fertilizers, Mixed	105.0	0.7	10.8
Floor Coverings	112.9	0.5	3.2
Flow Instruments	115.9	−0.3	2.5
Footwear	114.4	0.1	5.7
Foundry Products	108.8	0.6	3.3
Fuel Oil No. 2	53.2	7.9	1.1
Furniture	123.7	1.0	4.7
Gasoline	56.8	6.0	−2.2
Generator Sets	120.2	0.6	5.0
Glass	109.2	−0.1	2.2
Glass Containers	112.3	−0.2	−1.3
Gypsum Products	113.6	−1.2	−10.7
Hardware	112.7	0.4	3.2
Heating Equipment	116.5	0.1	0.8
HVAC Controls	113.9	0	0.4
LP Gas	53.8	−0.7	−2.5
Lubricants	103.7	0	5.2
Lumber	133.7	1.1	6.9
Metal Fabrications	113.1	1.4	8.5
Millwork	121.3	0.4	3.8
Motor Vehicle Parts	106.5	0.1	0.5
Mowers	113.0	−0.1	1.2
Natural Gas	80.6	4.3	−1.3
Office Machines	106.6	0.4	2.4
Paint	112.2	0.5	5.6
Paper	121.0	1.1	10.0
Passenger Cars	111.7	0.2	−1.7
Plumbing Fixtures	125.5	0.2	5.7
Plywood	102.1	−1.4	1.0
Portland Cement	102.8	0.3	0.1
Residual Fuel	40.5	−4.0	−22.4
Sand, Gravel	120.8	0.9	2.4
Sanitary Papers	110.9	1.0	1.4
Soaps, Detergents	111.8	0.1	3.7
Sporting Goods	105.4	0.3	3.7
Steel Mill Products	109.6	1.4	8.5
Struc. Clay Products	123.9	0.4	3.4
Switchgear	112.9	0.4	2.4
Tires, Tubes	93.4	0.1	3.1
Transformers	108.0	−0.2	1.1
Trucks	110.8	−0.1	−2.2
Valves	112.5	0.9	4.1
Wire, Cable	124.2	0.1	22.0
Wiring Devices	123.4	0.7	5.6

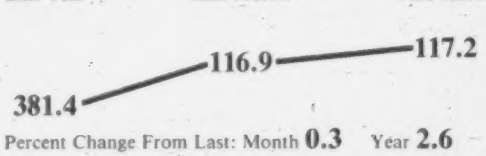
At-A-Glance Changes

MUNICIPAL COST INDEX



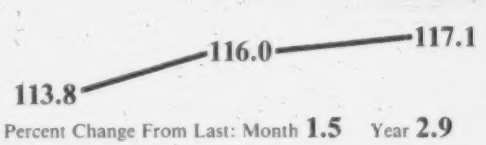
Percent Change From Last: Month **0.5** Year **3.7**

CONSTRUCTION COST INDEX



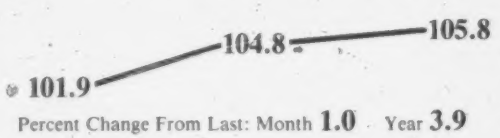
Percent Change From Last: Month **0.3** Year **2.6**

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (BLS)



Percent Change From Last: Month **1.5** Year **2.9**

PRODUCER PRICE INDEX (BLS)



Percent Change From Last: Month **1.0** Year **3.9**

QUARTERLY MUNICIPAL TRENDS

	Current Level	Percent Change From: Last Qtr.	Last Year
Receipts	657.6B	1.0	5.0
Federal Grants	103.5B	−2.4	− 5.5
Durable Purchases	27.8B	3.0	11.6
Consumables	44.6B	3.5	16.7
Services	413.1B	2.1	8.2
Structures	61.4B	−2.1	− 1.8
Salaries, Wages	325.6B	1.8	7.8
Surplus	87.5B	2.9	10.0
Employment	14.280M	0.3	1.8